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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 3-5, 2017

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EYE ON EMERSON

**Sitti Ali
entered
Canada by
walking
across the
U.S. border
in November.
She's now
opening her
home to other
asylum seekers**
metroNEWS

Plus Manitoba's education
minister has an urgent
message for Ottawa



JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/METRO

Getting creative to cut the deficit

BUDGET

Tories promise new law to control cost of public-sector wages

The Manitoba government will deliver its annual budget April 11 and is planning a new way to keep ministers and departments from over-spending.

Finance Minister Cameron Friesen said Thursday the fiscal plan will contain tough but necessary decisions aimed at cutting the deficit.

The Progressive Conservative government has already cut spending in some areas since winning last April's election and inheriting an \$846-million deficit.

The number of cabinet ministers has been reduced, an agency that oversaw new roads on the east side of Lake Winnipeg has been folded and Crown corporations have been told to cut management positions by 15 per cent.

Friesen said more must be done to stop a string of deficits that started in 2010.

The government is promising a new law to control the cost of public-sector wages through options that could include wage freezes and unpaid days off.

Friesen said spending under the previous NDP government had been growing at a rate

of four per cent a year.

"These actions placed our province on a path to even higher debt and increased debt-servicing costs as interest rates rise," Friesen said in a written statement.

"This is the fiscal reality we are committed to addressing as we pursue both the discipline and commitment to services that Manitobans expect from their government."

Premier Brian Pallister said he plans to introduce new mechanisms to ensure departments don't blow their budget targets and hinted there could be financial penalties for those that overspend. He said it "is only logical, fair and reasonable."

Asked whether that would specifically involve pay cuts for ministers whose departments overspent, Pallister said to wait for legislation this spring.

"We have an ambitious legislative agenda. You're going to see some legislation which may even well reference the idea you just advanced."

The New Democrats have accused the Tory government of focusing on austerity measures that will hurt the economy and front-line services.

The Tories launched reviews of government operations last year, including a value-for-money audit of various programs and a study on innovations in health care.

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NAfro beats to its own drum

ENTERTAINMENT

African dance performance explores truth behind masks



Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

Audience members attending the performance of Mapiko at the Gas Station Arts Centre this weekend won't be finding folded programs on their seats when they enter the theatre.

Instead, a small drum will be placed on each of the auditorium's 200 seats for people to play as dancers and musicians from African contemporary dance company NAfro Dance Productions perform a piece that explores the hidden truth behind the masks we all wear, according to the artistic director.

"Mapiko basically means the unknown, and this interpretive dance is meant to take you on a spiritual journey, to search for who we are and what it means to live a masquerade," said Casimiro Nhussi.

"We feel all pure when we are wearing our masks, but there's always something behind them. The truth is, many of us do not know who we really are. Humans are a complex species."

The performers' faces are hidden behind large tribal masks as their bodies tumble across the stage, spinning, jumping and moving every which way to the constant beat of drumming. It's an emotional experience, to say the least.

Audience members will play their drums throughout the

show by following the lead of musicians.

"We play the drums and move to the rhythm of the sounds in unison, and then the dancers will take the stage as we wind our way through our mysterious journey," Nhussi said as he swayed side to side in an interview Thursday.



This interpretive dance is meant to take you on a spiritual journey.

Casimiro Nhussi

When asked if he has concerns people will keep playing the drums when it's not their turn to participate, Nhussi said "I'm confident people will respect what we are doing so I'm not too worried about that happening."

Mapiko runs March 3, 4 and 5. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, and \$12 for children 12 and under. They are available for sale at the box office or online.



Mapiko runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 3, 4 and 5. LEIF NORMAN/SUPPLIED

5 ways to entertain yourself in the city this weekend

1 First Fridays

Wander around Winnipeg's Exchange District Friday night and stop by some of the 28 galleries, eateries and shops for the March edition of First Fridays. The monthly event means galleries are open late, so grab a bite and a beverage and check out the work of local artists.

2 Open mic

It's that time of the month again. Women's open mic comedy, which happens the first Friday of every month, is on this week at Wee Johnny's on McDermot Avenue. Yours truly will be performing. The show is for ladies who want to take the stage and try their hand at making people laugh. Sign-up is at 8 p.m.; the show starts at 8:30 p.m.

3 Sir Elton

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet pays homage to the one and only Sir Elton John at the Centennial Concert Hall in their new show Love Lies Bleeding, which continues Friday. Afterwards, stick around for an after-party put on by Culture Card and Pride Winnipeg. The HUB: Ballet Electric starts at 9:30 p.m. and ends at 2 a.m.

4 Time out

Roll out of bed Saturday morning and start your day with some deep breaths and relaxation. Mindful Morning at Joy's Tea, located at 885 Westminster Ave., runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Shift Yoga and Holistic Hollins have partnered with the shop to deliver a morning of self-care with proceeds going to the Mood Disorders Association.

5 Kid flicks

Check out what brilliant young minds have been able to create at the Freeze Frame International Film Festival for Kids of All Ages this weekend. The festival kicks off Sunday at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, at 340 Provencher Boul. with four films being shown from 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. The festival runs until March 12.

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This archived photo features residential school children in Canada. In an effort to learn more about Aboriginal history, a workshop entitled Stolen Lives: The Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools was designed to help teachers better engage students on critical issues facing Indigenous people living in Canada. CANADIAN DEPT. INDIAN NORTHERN AFFAIRS/CONTRIBUTED

Improving education on residential school history

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

'Stolen Lives' workshop a new resource for teachers



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg educators could soon be better equipped to teach students about the painful history of residential schools thanks to a new locally-developed workshop.

Facing History and Ourselves, a group that specializes in helping instructors broach challenging subject matter "in a way that empowers" students will offer a brand new professional development session to teachers

on March 4.

"We really want teachers to be able to delve deeply into this content and create a safe space where students can engage in the conversation," said Leora Schaefer, the director of the group's Toronto office.

"Educators need to realize they are at the forefront of reconciliation... their students, they're the future leaders of Canada."

Schaefer, who was born in Winnipeg, is returning to the keystone province to lead the workshop with the help of local Indigenous leader Theodore Fontaine, who also crafted a resource book called Stolen Lives for the course and classrooms across Canada.

Schaefer said his involvement is important to the process, and that the workshop couldn't be run "without an elder in the

community."

"It's such important, sensitive content, it needs to be done respectfully," she said.

Schaefer, says she became involved with the project almost a decade ago when teaching a similar workshop on Chilean history.



We really want teachers to be able to delve deeply into this content and create a safe space.

Leora Schaefer

She recalled that a participant challenged her, saying "how dare" she talk about those subjects when Canadians don't even learn or talk about their own country's dark past.

"She called me out... I knew that it was true, that this was

needed," Schaefer said.

Since then, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released a report that reaffirmed education surrounding residential schools should improve, and "it became very clear that we needed the resource and Canadian content."

shop) and now he'll be teaching," she said.

The course includes a "poignant foreword" about Fontaine's own residential school experience from 1948-1960.

In a prepared statement, one TRC commissioner, Dr. Marie Wilson, called the new resource "a well-researched and provocative new tool... that can help (students) explore new pathways to ongoing reconciliation."

Schaefer said that's the idea.

The workshop has been rolled out over the past few months around the greater Toronto area, including Hamilton, Timmins and Thunder Bay, but its Winnipeg stop this weekend is its first out of province — and returns the new resource, which is available to educators across the country for free online, to its source.

Winnipeg DIGEST

LOST AND FOUND

Police seek owner of missing money

Are you the rightful owner of a large sum of money that was recently lost? If so, Winnipeg police would like you to give them a call. On Thursday, police said they are looking for someone to claim the cash believed to be connected to a north end business. If you are the owner of the money, police say you will have to prove it and that any cash expended on advertising trying to find you will be deducted from the total amount. METRO

LEGISLATION

Province extends powers of children's advocate

The Manitoba government is giving the province's children's advocate new powers to investigate and report on services to young people.

A bill now before the legislature would end a restriction on the advocate's mandate that focuses only on the child welfare system. The bill would allow the advocate to investigate how children and young adults are treated in the justice system, in health care and other areas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Break-and-enter suspect sought by authorities

Winnipeg police are asking for the public's help in finding a suspect believed to be connected to a string of downtown break-and-enters. On Thursday, police announced they are searching for Grant Alex Morrisseau, who's wanted on charges of break-and-enter, theft under \$5,000 and other court breaches. Anyone with information about the suspect's whereabouts is asked to contact police. METRO

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EYE ON EMERSON

Refugee opens home to others

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Sitti Ali has 11 people staying with her temporarily



Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro | Winnipeg

Sitti Ali says she does not miss her first home.

She doesn't elaborate on why to reporters, but the recently-arrived refugee appears to be adjusting well to life in Winnipeg.

The 28-year-old from Djibouti walked to Canada through Emerson, Man. in November, after flying to the U.S. She said she spent two months in Denver before taking a bus to Minnesota.

Ali said she heard people were finding their way to Manitoba through Minnesota and she yearned to make the trip.

So she took a bus to Grand Forks and from there, a taxi to the border where she met another



Sitti Ali is a recent refugee claimant from Djibouti who walked to Manitoba from the United States. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

group of six from Djibouti who were hoping to make the same trek to Emerson.

Ali walked with three women, two men and an eight-month-

old baby starting at 7 p.m. one night, she said.

When they arrived in Canada seven hours later, "I was the only one there who spoke English so

I called 911 (and) said, 'We are refugees,'" she remembered.

She described the police and border services agents as welcoming and friendly.

“I really like to help people in any kind of way. Sitti Ali

Ali shared her story at a morning press conference where the United Way announced support for asylum seekers in the form of a new website: helprefugees.ca.

After about three months in Winnipeg, Ali said she is also looking to give back.

She's volunteering at Welcome Place helping other refugee claimants file their paperwork and is opening her own home to newcomers.

"I started welcoming people to my house — families, people that Welcome Place doesn't have enough accommodations (for)," Ali said.

Right now, she has 11 people staying in her home temporarily. The most she's hosted is 18.

"So I really like to help people in any kind of way. If Welcome Place gives me a job, that's fine," she said, with a laugh.

Ali recently got her work permit so finding a job is top of mind. She said her dream job involves "helping people" in any way, shape or form.

Ali said refugees like herself are racing to the Manitoba border for "freedom and protection."

She had an American visa when she flew in from Djibouti, but didn't feel safe staying in the U.S.

"When (refugee claimants) go to the States, most of them are really scared because they say, 'Oh you won't be accepted here because Donald Trump is refusing refugees,'" Ali said. "When they're scared of that... they come here to Manitoba."

"Everyone is here (because) they want education, they want peace, they want (a place) where they can have their family and kids to grow," she said.

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REFUGEES

Officials ask feds to help asylum seekers in Emerson

Manitoba's education minister is calling on Ottawa to act faster in helping the province cope with what's expected to be a rise in the number of asylum seekers crossing the border.

According to the United Way, 169 people entered the province illegally on foot from the U.S. so far this year.

The provincial minister responsible for immigration, Ian Wishart, says he'd like to see more phone calls and in-person meetings happening between the province and the federal government to coordinate plans.

"Right now writing letters from the Premier to the Prime Minister and back and forth is not a very working relationship. We need to have a relationship at the officials-level that can make things happen," Wishart told Metro.

"We're trying to impress on the federal government that we see this as an issue that they should be paying attention to and that there potentially could be much larger numbers (of asylum seekers) in the future."

At a United Way press conference held Thursday, Abdi Ahmed,

coordinator for Immigration Partnership Winnipeg, said he doesn't believe the swell of asylum seekers will stop anytime soon.

"We're going to get more. It doesn't mean that more has to be a problem for us," Ahmed said. "This is something that we have to live with as a society and something that we have to respond to as a community."

"The majority of Somali community members, which I belong to, are hosting people in their own homes," he said.

The United Way announced a new website where members

of the community can donate to help asylum seekers on Thursday: helprefugees.ca.

Connie Walker, CEO of United Way, emphasized the strain their 23 partner agencies are under when it comes to helping newcomers and refugees.

"The reality today is with the influx of refugee claimants, these community agencies are becoming overwhelmed," Walker said. "With more families expected as warmer weather approaches... the need to help now (is) greater than ever."

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

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ECONOMIC BRIDGE- BUILDER

Jamie is a visionary of Cree descent who is passionate about building bridges between First Nations and business communities, as a pathway to a strong economic and prosperous future for all. With a background as an educator, an elite military Ranger, and as Manitoba's Treaty Commissioner, he is uniquely positioned to lead the province's economic portfolio as the Deputy Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade.

JAMIE WILSON
Bridge-builder / Alumnus

UWINNIPEG.CA/IMPACT

50



A city report on improving cycling safety disagrees with advocacy group Bike Winnipeg's claims that mandatory helmet laws reduce overall cyclist volumes. LYLE STAFFORD/METRO FILE

Bike safety review comes back empty

CYCLING

Concerned councillor hopes for new regulations



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

After nine months of study, the City of Winnipeg's report on improving cycling safety is ready.

The report will be presented to city council's protection and community services committee on Monday, but Coun. Russ Wyatt, who commissioned it, is dismayed by its lack of recommendations.

In it, active transportation coordinator Stephanie Whitehouse lists the merits of safety measures from mandatory bells to helmets and protected infrastructure, but proposes no changes to the city's bylaws, approaches or enforcement.

"My concern is that there should be some action coming out of it," Wyatt said.

"Otherwise this is just an academic exercise."

In May, 2016, the committee asked specifically for the public service to report back on whether all cyclists should wear helmets, have "sound devices," and use lighting.

At the time, local cycling advocates found the request redundant, saying Manitoba's highway traffic act (HTA) al-

ready requires cyclists under 18 to wear helmets, and that bikes need front and rear lights between dusk and dawn.

Whitehouse's report states the lights and bells "work as collision prevention devices."

"A cyclist is more noticeable with bike lights...bike sound devices warn others, including pedestrians, of the presence of cyclists," Whitehouse wrote.

As for helmets, they "greatly reduce head injury for collisions under 20 km/h, however for impacts at speeds greater than 28 km/h the benefit is negligible."

The report disagrees with advocacy group Bike Winnipeg's claims that mandatory helmet laws reduce overall cyclist volumes, but states helmet usage "tends to decline without ongoing enforcement and public education," even when legislated.

The best thing for reducing injury, according to the report, is "designing cycling routes separated from vehicles."

Whitehouse writes that, as per strategies adopted by city council, the city is "devoting resources to improving and expanding cycling infrastructure," checking off the biggest how-to-make-cycling-safer box.

But Wyatt said that invest-

ment and infrastructure is why the city should be tougher on instituting new rules and doing something with this report.

"We're a growing city, one where traffic numbers are going up, we're trying to get more and more individuals away from the automobile and onto other modes of transportation — transit, rapid transit, cycling — that inherently will drive up requirement for safety on all sides," he said.

Wyatt, addressing the existing HTA rules, said those are more of a "bare minimum," and while it could suffice in smaller towns, Winnipeg has "got to have more than basic safety."

"Things are changing quickly in terms of how we're moving, our infrastructure (is changing), and it's going to continue in that direction," he said. "If that's the case, we need to be prepared for the growth of cycling and ensure we push the safety opportunities that exist."

Wyatt said he hopes the committee will "pursue this further," and push for new regulations to integrate the full suite of safety measures for all ages and all hours — helmets, lights, and bells for every bike and cyclist.

"I do not think it's much to ask," he said.

“We need to be prepared for the growth of cycling and ensure we push the safety opportunities that exist. Coun. Russ Wyatt

Canadians outraged

COURT
Hundreds call for probe after judge's not guilty verdict

Cody McEachern & Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Anger is growing across Canada against a judge who found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault this week. Petitions have been launched calling for an investigation against Judge Gregory Lenehan as people organize to protest his latest verdict.

More than 3,000 people had signed the main petition by Thursday evening, the day after Lenehan's decision allowed Bassam Al-Rawi to walk free.

Bassam Al-Rawi was charged after being found with an unconscious and mostly naked woman in his cab on May 23, 2015.

During his trial last month, the Crown presented a toxicology report showing the 26-year-old complainant would've had a concentration of between 223 and 244 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood when police found her.

"Clearly a drunk can consent," Lenehan said in his decision.

The comments sent a tide of uproar across the country and spurred many to speak out.

The online petition calls the judge's views of consent "antiquated and dangerous."

"He should not be in a position to hand down decisions allowing sexual predators to go

free," it reads.

Multiple protests have been planned for next week in Halifax.

"The point is to cause a disruption," said Amanda Dodsworth, one of organizers. "We want to be seen and be heard, and what better way to do that than with a couple hundred people marching down the street. There are a lot of angry people, and they need an outlet to voice their opinion."

Leah Parsons, the mother of Rehtaeh Parsons, has added her voice to those demanding a review of Lenehan. Parsons' 17-year-old daughter committed suicide in April 2013 following months of bullying related to an explicit photo of her and a boy that was shared around her high school. A teen boy was charged with child pornography in that case and was sentenced to 12 months probation after a trial in Lenehan's court.



Judge Lenehan when he was a Crown prosecutor in 2009. COURTESY CBC

A review into how police and the Crown handled the Parsons case found "errors from start to finish." "For this man to actually walk free after all of that evidence? It is just sickening," Parsons said Thursday. "It's sending such a horrible, horrible message to other victims of assault. How are they going to come forward?"

"He obviously has his own perceptions about what is consent, and that is the problem we see everywhere. He should definitely be reviewed by somebody independent."

Police and judges need proper training for dealing with sexual assault cases, she said. Everyone needs to be on the same page regarding issues of consent and how victims behave following traumatic events, she added.

TAXI ASSAULT VERDICT

Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised.



Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

An extremely drunk woman cannot consent to sex. Any public servant who continues to believe she can is making the world unsafe for women.

Judge Gregory Lenehan ruled Wednesday that a taxi driver accused in a Halifax sexual assault case was not guilty because a lack of consent could not be proved.

"Clearly," he said, "a drunk can consent."

This is not true. Our understanding of consent has evolved but Lenehan's is woefully outdated. Consent must be affirmative and ongoing. Consent cannot be compromised. A judge presiding over a sexual assault case should know that.

The taxi driver, Bassam Al-Rawi, was charged after a woman was found in his car. Having entrusted her safety to the driver, a stranger, the complainant's inebriation only maximizes the horror of the situation.

Now, however, instead of safeguarding her trust and that of other women, some institutions have supported the man charged, and acquitted, in her attack.

The city's licensing committee, composed of city councillors, voted in August 2015, two months after the incident, to reinstate the driver's taxi licence with the conditions that he is not allowed to drive between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and has to have a camera in his car.

That said, it appears he didn't file the paperwork required to start driving again. He does not work for his former employer, Bob's Taxi; however, the licence allows him to act as an independent driver and take fares.

The judge's ruling, too, is a failure to protect women. While the judge acknowledges the moral obligation that the driver had to deliver the complainant home safely, he demonstrates a clear lack of knowledge on consent.

"(The complainant) might very well have been capable of appearing lucid but drunk,

and able to direct, ask, agree, or consent to any number of different activities," Lenehan said.

The complainant was found passed out and undressed in the cab while the driver tried to hide her underwear. Toxicology reports shown in court revealed her blood alcohol content to be nearly triple the legal limit.

Again, a vulnerable woman cannot consent.

The councillors who re-licensed the driver must be held to account.

So too must Judge Lenehan. (This is the same judge who issued a light punishment to Rehtaeh Parsons' tormentors.)

An outpouring of complaints are now being sent to the provincial and national Judicial Council. Provincial intervention may be unprecedented in Nova Scotia. It has been at least 15 years since a public complaint against a provincially-appointed judge has been referred to the Judicial Council, said a spokesperson for the provincial law courts to the Halifax Examiner.

Removing the judge is just one step.

The entire taxi industry must commit to educating their drivers not to commit sexual assault as well as no longer employing drivers who — conviction or not — have sex with passengers. Feeling unsafe and left without justice, women in Halifax are already organizing to drive one another around by using a hashtag.

Rape culture is when women who do the right thing, like taking a cab home when they're drunk, have to ask for justice from the wrong person.

From the roads to city councils to the courts of justice, institutions must do everything possible to prioritize the safety of women, or risk completely losing their trust.

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SAFETY

Women helping each other with #HaliLadyCab campaign

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

In light of a judge's verdict that found a taxi driver not guilty of sexual assault, Alana Canales said she wanted to move the conversation away from what the complainant should've done differently to, "I'm here for you if you need me."

Canales started the hashtag #HaliLadyCab Wednesday evening to identify women on

Twitter who would be willing to pick up anyone for free who felt uncomfortable taking a taxi in light of Bassam Al-Rawi's acquittal, and last year's spike of alleged sexual assaults in cabs.

"I don't know if anyone will ever ask me for a ride late at night, but I do know that having me as an option is valuable," Canales said via email Thursday.

As of Thursday afternoon, at least six others on Twitter had added the hashtag to their bios.



Alana Canales is the woman behind #HaliLadyCab. JEFF HARPER/METRO



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Legalizing pot will protect kids: PM



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went running with members of the Canadian Forces Thursday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MARIJUANA

Trudeau says move takes cash from gangs

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says regulating the sale of marijuana will protect young people and take money away from criminal gangs, but the government is drawing the line at pot when it comes to legalizing illicit drugs.

The federal government's approach on pot has two goals, Trudeau said Tuesday during a visit to Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt in the Victoria area.

"The first is to protect our kids. Right now we know that young people have easier access to marijuana than just about any other illicit substance. It's easier to buy a joint for a teenager than it is to buy a bottle of beer. That's not right," he said.

"Secondly, we know that crim-

inal organizations and street gangs are making billions of dollars off of the sale of marijuana. We feel that regulating it, controlling it will bring that revenue out of the pockets of criminals and put it into a system where we can both monitor, tax it and ensure that we are supporting people who are facing challenges related or unrelated to drug use."

But the government doesn't plan to go any further than legal-

izing marijuana in legislation he hopes will be introduced by this summer.

"We are not planning on including any other illicit substances in the move toward legalizing and controlling and regulating," he said.

Trudeau is scheduled to participate in a discussion with first responders and health-care workers on Friday in Vancouver on B.C.'s opioid crisis, which killed 922 people last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Upstream LIVING

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MEMORIAL

Monument has five final submissions



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa could be home to the leaning tower of Vladimir Lenin.

The falling figure of the Russian communist revolutionary is the central feature of one of five finalists to become the monument to the victims of communism, whose site was moved in 2015 from land near the Supreme Court to the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, on Wellington near Bay Street.

Jeff Cutler, with the team Space2Place, which is proposing the Lenin-centric design, said having the statue's toppling effect ties into history.

"What it really represents is

that moment of transition from the fall of a communist regime into something new," he said.

He said his group chose Lenin because of his central role in the movement.

"All of the modern-day communism can really trace their roots back to him."

Four other designs are also competing to be selected for the project, including an elevated platform, a grouping of triangular monoliths and a design with 200 bronze blades.

Paul Raff's design features more than 4,000 bronze pipes attached to a large sculpture that would mark moments in the history of communism.

"The dissolution of the Soviet Union can be marked on a day of the calendar, so it is memorialized forever," he said.

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GAIL WILES

Perjury difficult to prove

POLITICS

Sessions would have a good defence if he needed one

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rejected any suggestion that he tried to mislead anyone about his contacts with the Russians.

Here are some questions and answers about the allegations:

Is this a case of perjury?

That's tough to say. Such a case would likely come down to splitting hairs over what Sessions said under oath, what he believed he was saying, and what he believed he was being asked. During Sessions' confirmation hearing in January, Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., asked the then-Alabama senator what he would do if evidence emerged that anyone from the Trump campaign had been in touch with the Russian government during the 2016 race. Sessions replied he was



Democrats are demanding an investigation into whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions committed perjury. GETTY IMAGES

"not aware of any of those activities" and that he himself, "did not have communications with the Russians."

Could he be charged with making 'false statements'?

Sen. Patrick Leahy, the senior Judiciary Committee Democrat, asked Sessions in a written

questionnaire whether "he had been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after Election Day." Sessions replied with one word: "No." That statement could be examined under a separate "false statements" statute, which

differs from perjury in that it applies to statements that are not made under oath.

What has Sessions himself said about perjury?

The House impeached Bill Clinton after he had been accused of lying to a grand jury about his relationship with

White House intern Monica Lewinsky. As a senator Sessions voted for conviction on perjury and obstruction. Clinton was acquitted. "I fear that an acquittal of this president will weaken the legal system by providing an option for those who consider being less than truthful in court," Sessions said after Clinton's acquittal in 1998.

What are some other cases?

Republicans asked for a perjury investigation of Hillary Clinton for telling Congress there was nothing in her private email marked classified. That was not accurate, but FBI Director James Comey said it was "possible that she didn't understand what a 'C' meant when she saw it in the body of the email like that," which would hurt a perjury case.

The Justice Department in 2013 rejected Republican suggestions that Attorney General Eric Holder committed perjury when he told Congress he had never been involved in a potential prosecution of the news media.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEBSITES

Comments get skill test filter



Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Canadians are quite familiar with skill-testing contest questions. Perhaps skill-testing comment questions will be next.

In a bid to keep a lid on the generally ill-informed fury that comments sections quickly become, a Norwegian website will ask those hoping to weigh in one simple question: Did you actually read the article?

Last month, NRKbeta — a tech site operated by Norway's public broadcaster — introduced a new feature that quizzes readers on details of the article before they're allowed to toss in their two cents.

"We thought we should do our part to try and make sure that people are on the same page before they comment," NRKbeta reporter Stale Grut told Nieman Lab.

Many news websites, including Metro, have jettisoned comment sections after they were largely taken over by hostile and reactionary ranting.

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Outreach - 819.7 Free Comedy

Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

WCF The Upper Deck

Jekyl & Hyde's Freehouse | 9:30 pm | Tickets: \$10

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Outreach - 819.7 Free Comedy

Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

High School Improv

Vincent Massey Collegiate | 7:00 pm | Tickets: \$5

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: \$15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Andy Noble HEADLINER: Rob Pue

WCF The Upper Deck

Jekyl & Hyde's Freehouse | 9:30 pm | Tickets: \$10

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Outreach - 819.7 Free Comedy

Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

GASTROCOMIQUE

Fusion Grill | 6:00 pm
Tickets: \$150 (includes meal and wine pairing)
HOST: Ashley Burdett
PERFORMERS: Rob Pue, Dave Hemstad

CBC Radio's Now or Never

West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOSTS: Ify Chivwetelu and Trevor Dineen

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: \$15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Dan Yerville HEADLINER: Nile Séguin

Ali Hassan's Muslim Interrupted

West End Cultural Centre | 9:00 pm | Tickets: \$20

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Outreach - 819.7 Free Comedy

Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

Lady Like

Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre

THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 7:15 pm | Tickets: \$35
HOST: Nikki Payne
CAST: Erica Sigurdson, Robby Hoffman, Nile Séguin, Fatima Dhowre, Nathan Macintosh, Cara Connors

CBC Radio's Because News

West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOST: Gavin Crawford

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: \$15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Ryan Ash HEADLINER: Sean Emery

The Winnipeg Show

West End Cultural Centre | 10:00 pm | Tickets: \$15
HOST: Bruce Clark

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Virgin Territory

Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre

THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 7:15 pm | Tickets: \$35
HOST: Gavin Crawford
CAST: Dave Hemstad, Ashley Moffatt, Ivan Decker, Martha Chaves, Big Daddy Tazz, Derek Seguin, Adrienne Fish

Alicia Tobin's Come Draw with Me

West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: \$20

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 7:45 pm | Tickets: \$20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Ben Walker HEADLINER: Jackie Kashian

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Morris, MB

Morris Multiplex | 8:00 pm | Tickets: \$20

Coast to Coast:
150 Years of Funny!

Club Regent Event Centre | 8:00 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOST: Jeff McEnery
CAST: Matt Wright, Kathleen McGee, Big Daddy Tazz, Patrick Hays, Jen Grant, Nathan Macintosh

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Lost in Translation, Perdu en quoi?

CCFM | 20h | Billets: \$10

Good Neighbours

Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre

THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 9:15 pm | Tickets: \$35
CAST: Deb Kimmitt, Mark James Heath, Rob Bebecek, Tim Nutt, Shazia Mirza, Sean Emery

Tales From Late Night

West End Cultural Centre | 10:00 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOST: Bruce Clark

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 10:30 pm | Tickets: \$20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Tyler Penner
HEADLINER: Nathan Macintosh

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

CBC Radio's The Debaters

Club Regent Event Centre | 2:00 pm | Tickets: \$30
HOST: Steve Patterson

Dinner & A Movie
presenting **Caddyshack**

The MET | 6:00 pm | Tickets: \$30
HOST: Howie Miller

I Heart Love

Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre

PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE THEATRE | 6:45 pm | Tickets: \$35
HOST: Will Sasso
CAST: Patrick Hays, Amanda Brooke Perrin, Joe Yu, Jen Grant, Jacob Samuel, Jackie Kashian

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 7:15 pm | Tickets: \$20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Matt Nightingale HEADLINER: Mark James Heath

No Bro Show

West End Cultural Centre | 7:30 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOST: Lara Rae

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Hot Mess

Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre

THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 9:15 pm | Tickets: \$35
HOST: Howie Miller
CAST: Jeff McEnery, Kathleen McGee, Matt Wright, Rebecca Reeds, Julie Kim, Glen Foster

Feminist Gong Show

West End Cultural Centre | 9:30 pm | Tickets: \$20
HOST: Erica Sigurdson

The Dirty Show

The MET | 10:00 pm | Tickets: \$20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Tim Nutt

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series

Rumor's Comedy Club | 10:00 pm | Tickets: \$20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Andy Noble HEADLINER: Patrick Hays

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

CBC's The Debaters

Club Regent Event Centre | 2:00 pm | Tickets: \$30
HOST: Steve Patterson

WCF presents
Best of the Fest
& The Mic Awards

Club Regent Event Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: \$25
HOST: Jackie Kashian
CAST: Glen Foster, Jeff McEnery, Matt Wright, Rob Pue, Nikki Payne, Shazia Mirza

Please note that all show casts are subject to change.

FIND OUT WHO'S COMING TO THE 2017 WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL

metr SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Smog fees Lawyers suing Beijing over the city's smog are demanding compensation for the likes of masks and doctor's visits.

DECODED by Andrés Plana and Sarah-Joyce Battersby

WHAT TO EXPECT IN TECH

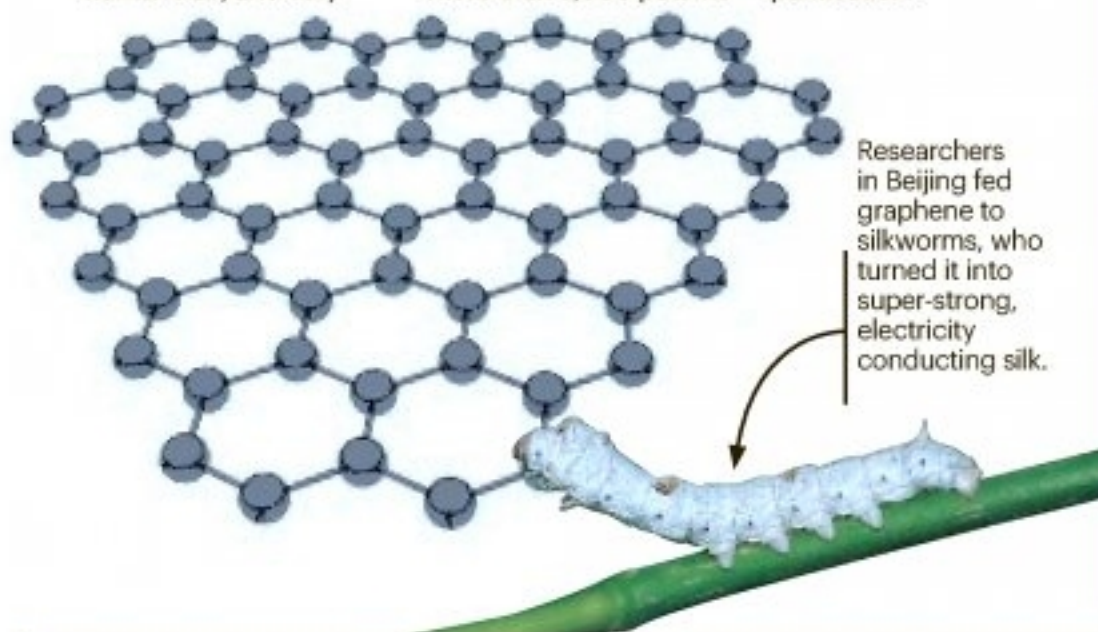
It's been almost 6,000 years since the wheel was invented, but science has not been resting on its innovation laurels. A mere 300 years later, wheels were first used for transportation. And now in the 21st century it looks like invention is starting to hit its stride, with new discoveries and applications cropping up regularly. **Here's a look at tech from the not-too-distant future**

1 Graphene

Touted as the first 2D material, graphene is very thin (one million times thinner than human hair) and very

strong (200 times stronger than steel). Since researchers at the University of Manchester published their discovery of the material in 2004, more than 8,000 patents

have been registered, with Samsung holding the most. The substance can be used in batteries, bendable computer screens, and water purification.



Researchers in Beijing fed graphene to silkworms, who turned it into super-strong, electricity conducting silk.



2 Nuclear waste diamond batteries

As 2016 came to a close, British researchers announced they could turn nuclear waste into diamonds that could in turn be used as long-lasting batteries. The power-emitting gems don't have enough juice to charge a smartphone, but they can last for thousands of years. So it's a trade off.

3 Pollinating Drones

Hoping to ease the burden on dwindling bee populations, Japanese scientists announced last month they had created insect-sized drones to pollinate plants. Enthusiasm for robot bees depends on how many episodes of dystopian TV series Black Mirror you've seen.



FINDINGS Your week in science



Sweet pee Alberta researchers have a theory: test for urine in pools by looking at sugar levels, since artificial sweeteners stay intact in pee. Using the method, they found 75 litres of urine in a pool one-third of Olympic size. That equals about 37 big bottles of Coke.

Quebec cradle of life A team of researchers believe they have uncovered the oldest known signs of life on the planet in a spot on the shores of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec. The fossils contain traces of bacteria from 3.77 billion years ago.

SOUND SMART

MEAT SPACE

DEFINITION **Meatspace** the physical world, as opposed to cyberspace or a virtual environment.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE Deborah has been using her phone so much to deal with social life that I think she forgot about the meatspace.

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

Imagination is the only key to the future. Without it, none exists. With it, all things are possible.



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4 Hover-bike

For all your Star Wars-style transportation needs, a U.K. company is working to develop a manned helicopter bike. The project is still in the prototyping and fundraising phase, but it did attract interest from the U.S. Department of Defense in 2015.



Cooling Plastic

In an attempt to beat the heat, engineers have developed a cheap plastic film that blocks heat from the sun while also cooling anything it touches by up to 10 C. The details were

published in the journal Science by researchers in Wyoming and Colorado, who say the method could be mass-produced and used to cool buildings.



Hyperloop

It doesn't exist yet, but if it did it could travel between Toronto and Montreal in 30 minutes. Students gathered for a SpaceX-sponsored contest in January to help make the dream a reality.



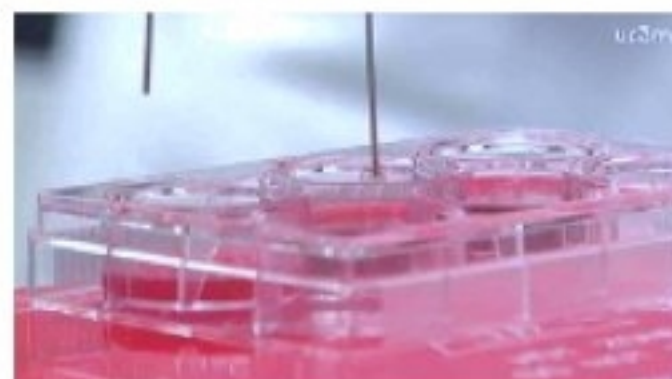
Translating headphones

These translation earbuds are set to start shipping in May. For now they only translate the romance languages and require all speakers to wear them, but in the future they could listen and translate all sounds around you.



Human skin printer

Scientists have developed a prototype for a machine that prints out sheets of human skin that could be used for transplants or cosmetic and pharmaceutical testing.



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A sweeter side of Wolverine

IN FOCUS

Hugh Jackman brings sharp humanity in mutant finale

Richard Crouse

For Metro Canada



Temperament wise, Hugh Jackman doesn't have much in common with his most famous screen role.

As the embodiment of Wolverine — a mutant blessed with miraculous healing powers but cursed with a bad hairstyle and existential angst — Jackman is the face of the character. But off screen he is as gracious as his cigar-smoking X-Men alter ego is testy.

His Prisoners co-star Terence Howard told me Jackman was, "a sweet man," while director Josh Rothstein said the actor "leads with smiles and warmth."

Doesn't sound much like Wolverine to me.

When he isn't playing Wolverine he devotes his time to charitable causes like World Vision and Laughing Man, a coffee company he established that sells fair trade coffee and tea, products farmed using ecologically friendly methods and sold for the benefit of the farmer and consumer.

This weekend he stars in Logan, the third solo Wolverine film. In the new movie the X-Men antihero makes tracks to the Mexican border to set up

a hide-out for ailing mentor Professor X, played by Patrick Stewart.

This installment marks the ninth time Jackman has slipped on the adamantium claws, and will be his swansong in the role.

Having played the character for almost 18 years Jackman owns the part, bringing real humanity to the mutant in an powerful and accomplished performance.

But, as he told me in a friendly, wide-ranging and informative interview, he wasn't always as self-assured.

"When I started acting I was the dunce of the class," he reveals. Success in school, he says, came because of his work ethic, a trait he picked up from his father.

"He never took one day off in his life," he remembers. "He had five kids he was bringing up on his own. If anyone deserved a day off it was my old man, but he never did. I learned that from him."

"There's always that feeling of, 'I have to work harder than everybody else. I'm not born Phillip Seymour Hoffman. I've got to just work harder and I'm prepared to do it.'"

Being the youngest of five children also contributed to his outlook.

"I always wanted to do stuff and not be left out," he says, but adds, "I was quite a fearful kid, which I hated."

"I've always had a fear of fear. It's weird to think back now but drama school is a pressure cooker situation. People get kicked out of drama school. You are constantly being judged



Dafne Keen as Laura and Patrick Stewart's Professor X are Hugh Jackman's sidekicks in Wolverine swansong Logan. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Before I Fall ★★★
Ballerina ★
Table 19 ★★★
The Shack ★
Bitter Harvest ★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

on how you are doing; are you progressing, are you not?

"Almost everyday you had to get up and do a monologue.

Sing a song. Do it in front of everybody. I noticed I was always first. I never wanted to sit there waiting. I'm not saying that out of courage. It was too uncomfortable to sit, stewing. I don't think I've told anyone else that."

Later, fear of unemployment pushed him to expand his talents.

"When I came out of drama

school I was like, 'I'm going to do anything I can just to keep working.' In drama school you do Shakespeare to movement to circus skills to singing all in one morning. I know a lot of people hated it but I revelled in it. I loved it."

Seems hard work and confidence is the X-factor that made Jackman the most famous — and friendly — of all the X-Men.

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Avoiding falls, Deutch is on the rise

INTERVIEW

Actress waves goodbye to her Disney days and grows up fast

To say actress Zoey Deutch is a regular at Art's Deli is an understatement. Sporting an oversized sweatshirt, she breezes into the restaurant, a Studio City institution since 1957, and is immediately greeted with familiar hugs from the wait staff. One chimes in that he's known her since she was a baby.

"I do all my interviews here, I do all my meetings here, I do all my dates here," Deutch laughs. "There's a lot of ground covered at this deli."

Deutch grew up not too far away from the spot with her movie business parents. Her dad is *Pretty in Pink* director Howie Deutch and her mom, actress and '80s dream girl Lea Thompson. They fell for each other on the set of the high school rom-com *Some Kind*



Zoey Deutch plays a popular teenager forced to live to last day of her life over and over in *Before I Fall*. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

of *Wonderful* and have stayed together since.

At 22, Deutch, is looking to make a name for herself in the business separate from her insider parents. She's been acting professionally since age 15, transitioning from Disney

shows to young adult genre fare, some of which are better regarded (*Beautiful Creatures*) than others (*Vampire Academy*), and now more adult roles. Earlier this year, she was paired opposite James Franco, 16 years her senior, in the stu-

dio comedy *Why Him*, and last year played the wise female lead in the otherwise testosterone fueled Richard Linklater indie *Everybody Wants Some!!*

Her latest, *Before I Fall*, is a dark *Groundhog Day*-like portrait of a popular teenager

forced to relive the last day of her life over and over again. The film explores subjects like bullying, peer pressure and how to be a decent person in the world within conventions of a psychological thriller.

"She's the real thing," said *Before I Fall* director Ry Russo-Young. "The girl has serious chops."

Deutch is someone who admittedly likes to take control of things, even outside of the duties of "actor."

Before I Fall, for instance, was a \$3 million movie that didn't have much of a wardrobe budget, so she found herself calling in favours to make sure they had all the necessary duplicates to work for the time loop construct.

Recently, too, she put on a public relations hat to tell the folks at a morning talk show where she was a guest that there'd be no running a clip from her new film of a car crash first thing in the morning, "right before people get in the car!"

She even ordered a cup of matzah ball soup for this reporter at Art's.

"It's the best!" she says as she transitions between myriad topics from what books she's excited about lately (she just finished *The Feminist Porn Book* and is about to start *Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey*) to the magic of Christian Marclay's experimental video art installation *The Clock*. In her next film, *Rebel in the Rye*, she plays the popular socialite Oona O'Neill, who dated J.D. Salinger and eventually married Charlie Chaplin and got to affect a mid-Atlantic accent a la Katharine Hepburn (Deutch's "queen idol of the universe").

Deutch is interested in everything and everyone. She skipped out on college to focus

on acting, but packs her free time with extracurricular pursuits. She reads voraciously, studies with a political science tutor (the current focus is on constitutional law) and even takes art classes at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

She has taken a vested interest in politics and feminist causes, like reproductive rights, excitedly lifting up her sweatshirt to reveal a T-shirt underneath with an image of female anatomy and a gun with the words that the former is "more controlled" than the latter. Deutch found the shirt at a local bookstore and bought some for all of her friends.

"They're like, 'what's that?'" Deutch said. "I'm like, 'that's your uterus.'"

Speaking out on causes is something she feels a responsibility to do.

"There are privileges in my life, inherently, because of my job and that I'm white. I have these things that are completely out of my control and if I don't use these things to raise awareness for people who don't, then that's lame," she said.

But of course the primary focus is acting, and she's in it for the long haul. Deutch resents the moniker "it girl" for the temporality it implies.

"It's OK, call me whatever you want, but I'm here forever whether you like it or not. I love what I do and in whatever capacity I can. I have no facade. No delusions of grandeur of how one's path goes. I know this is an up and down crazy journey and I'm prepared and willing to go on," she said.

"I want to do a Western! I want to do a musical I want to do a remake of *Venus in Fur*. I want to do everything. And I will."

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MOONLIGHT BACK IN THEATRES

Biggest release yet

Best-picture winner *Moonlight* is heading back into theatres in what will be its widest release yet.

Its distributor, A24, said the film will play in about 1,500 theatres this weekend across North America.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama scooped three Oscars in total last weekend — best picture, best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best adapted screenplay, which was shared by Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney, author of *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*, on which the movie is based.

Moonlight first opened in

late October, and while it played in 585 theatres last weekend, it's already out on DVD and digital rental.

The film's long release never surpassed 1,104 screens. By comparison, most major wide-release films open on 3,000 or more screens.

As of this week, *Moonlight* has grossed \$22.7 million in the U.S. and Canada. That makes the film one of the lowest grossing best-picture winners ever.

The lowest is 2009 winner *The Hurt Locker*, which made \$17 million, or about \$19.4 million in today's dollars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A story set in Ukraine's famine

PERIOD DRAMA

Bitter Harvest delves into a long-hidden genocide

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Genocide may be largely associated with the terrible atrocities that took place in Armenia, Rwanda and during the Holocaust of the Second World War. But there is another historical horror that actor Max Irons is hoping to enlighten moviegoers about.

"It was new to me and it's new to most people from what I can tell," said the young star about Holodomor, the man-made Ukrainian famine at the centre of his latest film, Bitter Harvest.

"There was a concerted effort made by (Joseph) Stalin and the Soviet Union to keep what happened in Ukraine under wraps and as a result few people knew about it up until about '91. Even today, only about 24 countries



Max Irons stars in Bitter Harvest, a film about two separated lovers set during the 1930s famine in Soviet Ukraine that caused the deaths of millions of people. CONTRIBUTED

acknowledge it for what it was — which is a state-sponsored genocide."

While the film (set in the 1930s) is an excavation of the neglected disaster that killed millions of people, the period drama about two separated lovers battling to reunite during the crisis also takes on a decidedly contemporary flavour

in light of today's tension over Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Crimea region.

"I think the DNA of the country led to what happened in the '30s and again is leading to what's happened with Crimea and Ukraine today," said Irons. "It's a country that's divided politically, ethnically, linguistically,

economically and also it's struggling for its sense of national identity (and) even now Putin refuses to acknowledge the Ukraine as its own sovereign state. So it's a country in the wrong place."

While candid on the complex issue, Irons is also quick to distance any direct connection between Bitter Harvest and the

BEHIND THE SCENES

Fiction vs. non-fiction

"Films can be so many things from straight-up entertainment to slightly solemn and worthy things that teach people a thing or two," said Max Irons. "But I was attracted to this story because so few people know about it."

"He's fortunate enough to have enough access to the kind of capital required to make a film like this and tell the story and he's gone ahead and done it, which is pretty great."

An actor by choice

"I never believed that thing about it (being) in your genes," said Irons about his famous filmmaking family. "It was only when I did it for the first time (and) it was just more engaging and more fun and exercising the parts of my brain that I wanted to exercise."

The Canadian connection

Bitter Harvest was produced by Toronto-based financier Ian Ihnatowycz, whose own family fled Ukraine in the 1940s.

"(He) feels, like many Ukrainians do, that this story needs to be told," said Irons.

region's current politics. After all, he insists he's just an actor and "if it's a great story, it's a great story," regardless of the politics involved.

It would seem such insight might have been imparted from his parents — two people who know a thing or two about filmmaking. But the son of Oscar-winner Jeremy Irons and legendary Irish stage actress

Sinéad Cusack insists that he's not necessarily relied on their fame for career success — or even their advice.

"They understand that everyone has to make their own way and make their own mistakes and have their own victories," said Irons.

"They're quite nice like that — they just let me get on with it."



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Lessons from a family gap year

ADVENTURE

Parents stick to epic plan, even when the kids are fussy

Yvette Duffy's adventure of a lifetime began with years of meticulous planning.

The goal was to visit 16 countries in 10 months — an around-the-world ramble in which she and her husband would introduce their 10- and 13-year-old kids to an array of cultures, traditions and invaluable life lessons.

A family gap year, or even a months-long jaunt, can seem like an impossible dream for average Canadians. But many figure out a way, despite significant hurdles: finances, schooling, work obligations and of course, the kids' willingness to go along.

Before their trip, Duffy and her husband curtailed spending and drafted a list of countries to visit. Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her teacher's salary for four years so they could afford a year-long leave. They crunched the numbers again and again and tweaked their list of dream destinations.

As the trip approached, they sold their car and arranged a home swap for one of the costliest legs of the trip — three weeks in the south of France.

School was also an issue, since their son would essentially skip Grade 5 while their daughter would ditch Grade 8. So Duffy downloaded outlines of their academic requirements and vowed to homeschool on the road.

It was a risky plan, Duffy ac-



Riding camels in northern Morocco, from left: husband Scott Morson, kids Matthew and Alexandra, and Yvette Duffy. Right: Lisa Kisch and husband Quillan Nagel with daughters Audrey, centre, and Lily, right, at the San Buenaventura Church in Homun, Mexico. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY YVETTE DUFFY/LISA KISCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



knowledges, but the payoff was huge. Several months after returning to Toronto, she points to incredible memories, a tighter family bond, and confident kids.

"Their self-esteem definitely increased, their sense of independence increased, their knowledge of the world definitely grew," Duffy says of the impact of visiting locales including Iceland, northern Africa, the Himalayas, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"They can now speak about places and issues in the world with more confidence and actually recognize the challenges that are facing the world around poverty, human rights, climate change."

Toronto mom Lisa Kisch says she indulged a long-held dream to see the world after her mother suddenly fell ill with terminal cancer.

Eager to distract herself from grief, Kisch dove into a plan to take her husband and two daughters on a seven-month jaunt to Mexico, the Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

Reached at their first stop in Merida, Mexico earlier this year, Kisch rattled off a list of tips and tricks that could actually keep her finances in the black, thanks to a healthy passive income.

She's renting out their Toronto home and also found tenants for their cottage. Her online

business as a network marketer for a beauty products company also promises a continued source of income.

Living and accommodation expenses should drop — depending on where they travel — and more savings come from reduced home and car insurance. Plus they won't be on the hook for the regular stream of birthday party gifts for her daughters' friends, she jokes.

Kisch used a broker to score seven months of health insurance for the whole family for \$1,000 and will curb travel costs by hitting Europe in May before high-season starts. More affordable destinations like Portugal will alternate with pricier stops,

like London.

While the budget fell into place, she hadn't anticipated how hard the move would be on her eight- and 10-year-old girls, who were sad to leave friends. Several days into the trip they were still crying and she admits to being plagued by mom-guilt.

"It did surprise me that after five or six days they were still wishing they were home," says Kisch. "And then I realized: You know what? You had a vision for this trip from the beginning for a reason and just keep that vision even while your kids are going through those ups and downs because ultimately that's what they're real-

ly going to learn from."

Lingering in one place allows for some semblance of a normal routine, she adds. Their mornings generally consist of schoolwork, an excursion and then lunch.

Sightseeing is a leisurely jaunt, not the frenzied rush that can mar shorter trips, she says.

"If you have to see absolutely everything, they're going to be miserable, you're going to be miserable, they're not going to remember it anyway."

"The things they remember are: 'Remember when we walked to that place and we saw that shop and there was the lady with the flowers?'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOW THEY DID IT

The straight logistics, or how to order pizza in any language

Living abroad temporarily can seem out of reach for families. Here's a look at how two Canadian families managed:

Family: Yvette Duffy, her husband and two kids, ages 10 and 13

Home: Toronto

Travel dates: Sept. 7, 2015 to mid-June 2016

Where they went: Iceland, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey, Greece, Italy,

England and Scotland.

How they handled school:

Online sites were key for math — mostly IXL and the Khan Academy, but also the University of Waterloo's Problem of the Week. Duffy downloaded ebooks and audio books related to each locale. Kids blogged about things like blood cells and oxygen levels in Nepal, and "impossible loads" in Vietnam where motorcycles routinely carry massive cargo. Upon



return, the kids went to a French summer camp before resuming studies at their French immersion school.

The cost: They sold their car, lived frugally and arranged a home swap. For four years, Duffy deferred 20 per cent of her salary. They offset hefty airfare costs by using a travel app that scoured for deals.

Travel tip: Keep baggage light. "Sometimes (the kids) wanted things. And then the question was: 'Are you willing

to carry that for the remainder of the trip?' And it always came down to: 'No.'"

Family: Lisa Kisch, her husband and two kids, ages eight and 10

Home: Toronto

Travel dates: Jan. 3, 2017 to July 2017

Where they went: Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, England, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Croatia.

How they handled school: Kisch discussed pulling her kids out of Grades 3 and 5 with teachers, who were very

supportive. But her school board doesn't provide materials for home schooling. Kisch loaded e-readers with library books, and bought math workbooks. **Income:** Rental income from their home and a cottage covers both mortgages and provides about \$2,500 a month extra. Plus, Lisa continues to work online as a network marketing professional and receives a salary.

The cost: Mexico provided affordable comfort — a large two-bedroom house with pool in Merida for \$2,500 a month.



Uber rides, groceries and restaurants were cheap.

Day-to-day costs rose in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but over the course of the trip, Kisch expects they'll spend about as much as they would living in Toronto.

Travel tip: Quell tantrums by picky eaters with help from food ordering apps that do the translating for you. "The day I got here I tried to order pizza ... and it was an epic fail," Kisch recalls of her nascent Spanish-speaking skills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Home-ice advantage in Gushue's favour

CURLING

St. John's skip takes aim at winning his first Brier

Everything appears to be lining up nicely for Newfoundland and Labrador skip Brad Gushue in his quest to finally raise the Tim Hortons Brier tankard.

His St. John's foursome is the top-ranked team in the country. Gushue is coming off a Canadian Open title and smooth run through the provincial play-downs. Boisterous crowds are expected to pack Mile One Centre to cheer his every throw at the national men's curling championship, which opens Saturday.

All Gushue needs to do now is outlast a strong field and hope that a lingering left hip/groin injury doesn't flare up.

"It isn't where I want it, there's no doubt about it," he said. "And I don't think it will get to where I'd like it to be until the off-season when I'm not curling and I can spend all of my energy



Brad Gushue and his foursome are the top-ranked team after winning the Canadian Open and Newfoundland and Labrador's playdowns. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

getting it stronger."

The injury kept Gushue off the ice for a few months at the start of the season but he has impressed since his return in December. He has continued his regular gym work and stretch-

ing routines to keep the affected area as strong as possible.

Gushue doesn't expect the injury to impact his performance, but admits he's a little worried about the length of the competition.

"It is what it is and we'll get through it," he said. "It's not going to stop me from playing."

Gushue made it to the final last year in Ottawa before falling to Kevin Koe, who returns this year as the Team Canada entry. Other teams expected to be in the playoff mix include Manitoba's Mike McEwen, Northern

Ontario's Brad Jacobs, Ontario's Glenn Howard and John Morris of British Columbia.

"I think it's a really tough field but I think we stack up great," Koe said. "To me essentially it's pretty much the same field as last year. A couple tweaks here and there, B.C. has a little stronger team I think with Morris in there. But last year was so tough and we managed to win it."

The Brier winner will represent Canada at the April 1-9 Ford world men's curling championship in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Highly anticipated title bouts top card

While the UFC waits for its mainstream stars to return to the octagon, the promotion has booked a UFC 209 card that appeals directly to its serious fight fans.

Conor McGregor, Ronda Rousey, Jon Jones, Georges St-Pierre and Brock Lesnar are all in various states of inactivity, suspension or retirement. Only St. Pierre has a fight currently booked, and it doesn't have a date.

So Saturday's show from in Las Vegas is packed with talent, if not worldwide name recognition. In the main event, welterweight champion Tyrone Woodley and Stephen (Wonderboy)

Thompson meet in a rematch four months after their entertaining majority draw. Moments before that, rising stars Tony Ferguson and Khabib Nurmagomedov will have one of the year's most anticipated bouts for the interim lightweight championship.

“

I'm going to run circles all over this guy.

Tony Ferguson

If two title fights aren't enough, the pay-per-view leads off with heavyweights Mark Hunt and Alistair Overeem. Hunt happens to be suing

the UFC, president Dana White and Lesnar, alleging racketeering and fraud in the circumstances around his fight last July at UFC 200 against Lesnar, who subsequently failed a doping test.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bautista blasts first home run of spring in Jays' tie

Jose Bautista continued his impressive spring with a three-run homer, and the Toronto Blue Jays settled for an 8-8 tie with the Philadelphia Phillies in Grapefruit League baseball pre-season action Thursday.

Bautista went 2-for-2 in the game to increase his spring batting average to .500.

Left-hander JA Happ opened with two scoreless innings for Toronto, striking out two while allowing one hit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bogut switches sides in Cavs-Warriors rivalry

Andrew Bogut has changed jerseys — and perhaps sides in the NBA Finals.

The free agent centre, who played for the Warriors the past four seasons, signed Thursday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, joining the team he faced the past two June with a championship on the line.

Also Thursday, Golden State signed forward Matt Barnes, adding the edgy veteran after losing Kevin Durant to a knee injury.

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Leman loosens up on slopes

SKI CROSS

Calgary racer striving for World Cup 2nd in 16-17 finale



Vincent Man
Metro | Toronto

All it took for Brady Leman to earn his first World Cup victory in five years was to stop caring so much.

After finishing third overall last season, the Calgary ski cross racer set high expectations for 2016-17. He now admits that doing so only held him back.

"This year I put a lot of pressure on myself to follow that up and exceed last season, which was a tall task," Leman told Metro by phone earlier this week. "I was really stressed out about trying to match that and once I got over that, went back to just racing, things started coming together a lot more easily."

Even with the added stress, Leman was able to race to a pair of second-place finishes before

the Christmas break. Once he eased up on the self-imposed pressure, he grew comfortable on the mountain and went on a hot streak.

The 30-year-old rallied for three more silver medals before capturing gold in Idre Fjall, Sweden, on Feb. 12. In the final, Leman broke away from the pack and made the lead stick as he crossed the finish line just ahead of France's Arnaud Bovolenta.

It was his third career World Cup win and first since the 2011-12 season.

"It was really satisfying to get back on to the top of the podium and take a win because it had been that long," Leman said.

"That's a funny racetrack that one. It's so straight and fast at the bottom that being out front is a stressful spot.... All you can do is put your head down and hope nobody goes by you."

Leman sits second overall on



Brady Leman
GETTY IMAGES



Brady Leman carries a slim second-place overall lead into the World Cup season finale this weekend in Collingwood, Ont.

LAURENT SALINO/AGENCE ZOOM/GETTY IMAGES

the World Cup circuit this season and appeared poised to gain more ground on leader Jean Frederic Chapuis of France last week in Miass, Russia. A 26th-place showing, however, set the Canadian back and guaranteed Chapuis the Crystal Globe with a 112-point lead in the standings

and a single race remaining on the calendar.

Leman was hoping to capitalize on Chapuis' 27th-place finish, but "mental errors" cost him valuable points and a chance at racing for the season's overall championship in the tour's final stop on Sunday

at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, Ont.

"It's so tough to find that week-in, week-out consistency. It's easy to beat yourself up after a race like that," Leman said.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't have a couple of daydreams about winning a Globe on home

soil. But it's out of my hands at this point, which is too bad. It's still been a good season regardless of what happens this weekend."

While the race for the overall championship is over, Leman's second place is still very much up for grabs. He currently carries an 11-point lead over Switzerland's Alex Fiva, who Leman says is one of his best friend's on tour.

"We have a lot of mutual respect for each other. Our team and the Swiss team get along very well," Leman said. "They're just good competitors. They race clean and they race hard. Those are the kind of guys you want to race against."

History tips the scales in Leman's favour. One of his two previous victories was earned at Blue Mountain in 2011-12, when he finished the season second overall.

"I feel like I have a real shot at (winning) here," he said.

"We get such a good turnout at Blue Mountain that it's really motivating to try and be that guy, that Canadian that can do it on home soil and get the crowd fired up."

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PHOTO: NAVA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

You won't miss the meat but will love the spice blend of cumin, chili and paprika that give this retro comfort meal an injection of tame heat. Don't forget the napkins.

Ready in 30 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers.

2. Sauté until the vegetables are softened.

3. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt.

4. Simmer for 15 minutes. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

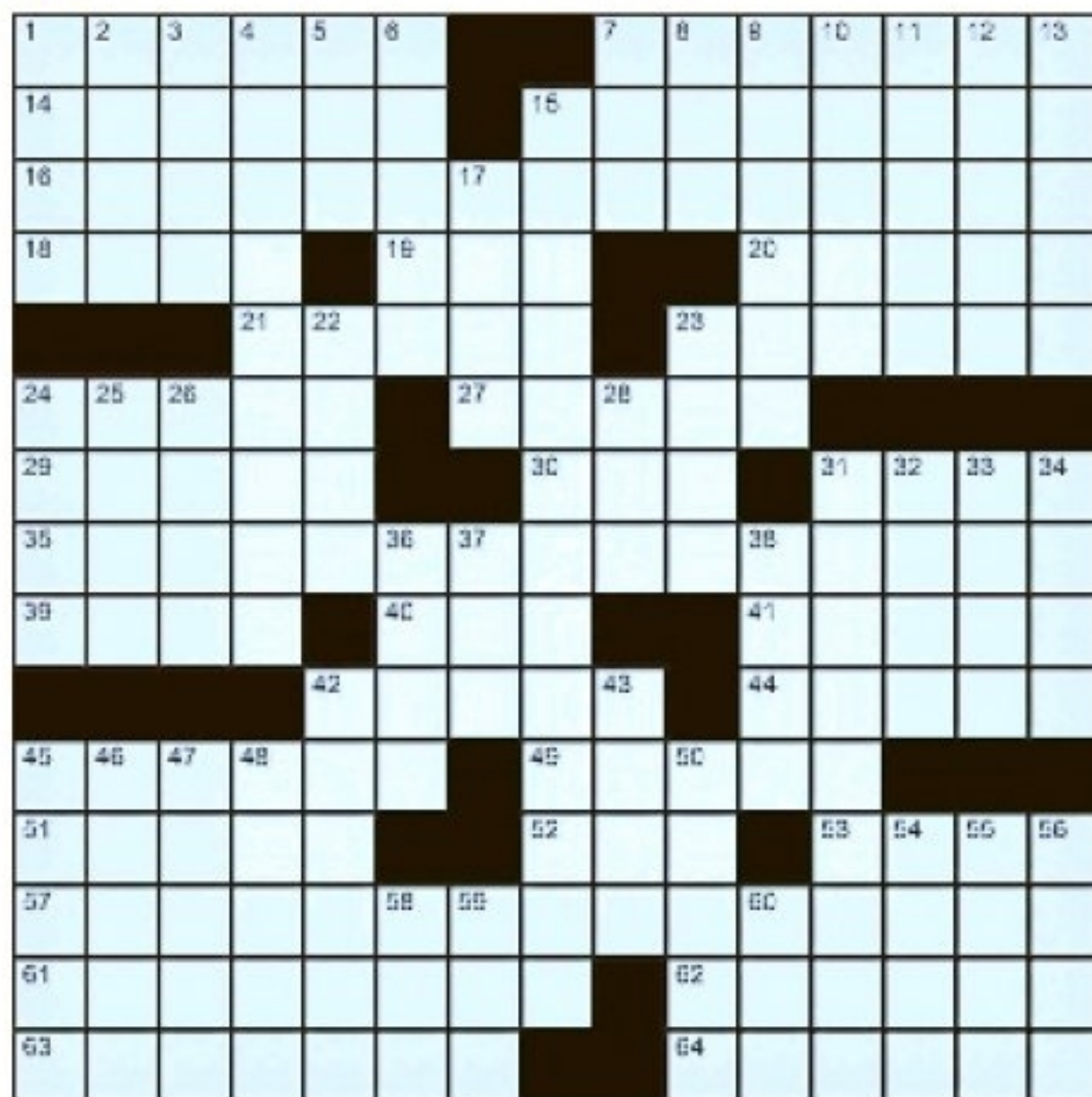
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ACROSS

- Garbo and Van Susteren
- Most quick
- Pick up on that sound: 2 wds.
- Go-with-coffee cookies
- Make a friendly gesture, as between neighbours: 4 wds.
- "Desperate Housewives" role
- WPM's "P"
- Freda of song
- Bob or Doug McKenzie
- Servings of chilled-in-moulds desserts
- Verboten
- Store promotions
- Glade target
- Assembled
- Director Mr. Mendes
- Titanic accommodation: 3 wds.
- Alternative magazine, Reader
- Ad committee
- Foreigner's "Cold"
- SNL's Mr. Michaels
- "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" (2010)
- Noon
- Record over
- Struck all of
- (Surprised or disconcerted)
- Web connect-or, briefly
- Near, fancy-style
- Earth is one, some believe Mars might have been one: 2 wds.
- Tolkien's nasty



- creatures: 2 wds.
62. Necklace piece to keep tiny keepsakes
63. Clickety-click-clicks - makes a mistake - uses the backspace key - then does this
64. F's music equivalent: note + word

DOWN

- President Reagan's Veep-turned-Prez
- Raise
- House's gutter locale
- Casey and Finnegan's set: 2 wds.
- Small island

- Layovers
- Terri's tail
- Residue kind
- Extents/ranges
- Entire
- Solvent sort, acetate
- Office item, pad
- Car's wheels

- Celtic family band from Cape Breton: 2 wds.
- Shoe width sizes, e.g.
- Dutch astronomer, Jan (b.1900 - d.1992)
- Transports for ritzy travellers

- Bean curd
- Mine passage
- "Free" (1966)
- Guitar legend Mr. Paul
- Mount in Alberta; or, Gaelic word for an outsider (Jamie's nickname for Claire) on Scottish Highlands set series "Outlander" on Showcase
- Somewhat: 2 wds.
- Detroit, _
- Snick-or-
- Bok (Stir-fry ingredient)
- "Full House" star Ms. Loughlin, briefly
- Cleveland basketballers, briefly
- Easily portable computer
- Gaelic
- "Real Time with Bill"
- 2005: "Can _ It Like That" by Pharrell feat. Gwen Stefani
- Money-spent transaction
- Mail (British newspaper)
- Genesis fruit
- "Dinka Doo" by Jimmy Durante
- Will of "The Waltons"
- ://www's start
- Sister Sledge's "We _ Family"
- Guess Who's lead singer's initials-sharers
- Alamos, New Mexico

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today. Some of you will even see new ways to make money. Clever you! Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today, and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. How can you create a better impression on your world?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something powerful and secretive is present in your life today. If you are focused and aware, whatever it is might introduce improvements into your world.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will attract someone powerful to you. This might be a pleasant experience — or not.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your relationships with bosses, parents and VIPs will be intense and direct today. However, the outcome will be that the relationship is superior.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might have a powerful discussion with someone about politics, religion or racial issues today. (It's tough to keep your shirt on if you have to get something off your chest.)

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you might see a better way to deal with shared property or something that is jointly owned. You also might come to a better arrangement regarding an inheritance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with partners and close friends will be emotional and strong today. People will show their feelings. Fortunately, things will be better after the dust settles.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job or where you work. Similarly, you might even see ways to improve your health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Romance will be passionate and intense today. In fact, you might feel obsessed with something.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Family discussions will be intense today. However, the main focus will be introducing improvements to where you live. Don't get carried away. Avoid major theatrics.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You are so powerful and convincing today that you will be successful if you are in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing. No one will be able to resist your words of persuasion!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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